forum. The officials concerned will get full opportunity to defend themselves as and when departmental proceedings are started.

Allocation for Exploration of Tapti Gas Fields

2651. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation proposed for exploration of Tapti Gas Fields during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the quantity of gas from Tapti Gas Fields is likely to be allocated to Gujarat; and

(c) the gas allocation made for power projects in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). This has not been finalised.

(c) The present commitment is 7.55 MMSCMD (not from Tapti field).

[*Translation*]

Pakistanis Residing Permanently in India

2652. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Pakistani citizens are permanently residing in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)-Ever since partition, minority community in Pakistan have been migrating to India. Presently, Pakistani nationals are coming to India on short term visas. Some of them do apply for long term visa for the purpose of staying here permanently and their cases are considered on merit. No details are available as such. Information is maintained by the State Govt./UT Admn.

[*English*]

Land Fertility of Indo-Gangetic Plain

2653. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether land fertility in the Indo-Gangetic plain had decreased due to increase in the salinity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) wherever the lands have been affected by the salinity the general fertility of the soil goes down. The decrease in crop production occurs due to toxic effects of salts on plant tissues, limited uptake of essential plant nutrients, removal of water from plant growth etc., decrease of the land fertility in the saline soils for Indo-gangetic plains has enhanced in the irrigated areas.

It is estimated that approximately 2.5 m.ha. area of the Indo-gangetic plain spread over in the States of Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan and M.P. is affected by soil salinity.

(c) To control the problem of soil salinity, the Command Area Development Programme of the Ministry of Water Resources envisages the following measures:

(i) on-farm development works of constructing the field channels, land levelling and land shaping;

(ii) providing adeqate water drainage;

(iii) encouraging conjunctive use of surface and ground water;

(iv) adoption of suitable cropping pattern; and

(v) creation of awareness among the farmers for more efficient and judicious use of water through adoptive trials, demonstrations, training programmes and extension efforts.

In other areas, adoption of suitable cropping pattern, application of soil amendments and drainage are advocated.

Central Agricultural University in Manipur

2654. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4009 on August 22, 1991 and state the time by which the Central Agricultural University in Manipur is likely to be established.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Sir, No decision on the proposal to establish a Central Agricultural University in Manipur has been taken.

Apple Plantation

2655. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether apple plantation in the country remains unprofitable activity for farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make it profitable profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No report has been received about the unprofitability of the apple plantations in the country.

(b) and (c). The Government of India implements the Market Intervention Scheme on the specific request of State Governments whenever there is an apprehension of distres sales by farmers. The State Governments have also to convey their willingness to bear 50% the cost of Market Intervention Operations.

Linkage to Diesel Power Generating Units in Kerala

2656. PROF. K.V. THOMAS; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for oil linkage to diesel power generating units at Brahmapuram. Calicut and Kasar Godu in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARNAND): (a) and (b). It has been decided to give a clearance in principle to provide the oil linkage to these projects.

New Passport Offices

2657. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of new passport offces proposed to be opened in the country during 1992-93, State-wise and location-wise?